

U. S. Assay Office, Melter & Refiner's Department,

New-York, Dec 16 1856

Ed & Kent  
New York

My dear Sir,

You are aware that I am about to petition Congress for Compensation for the use of my Invention. To be successful in this object, it will be necessary for me to exhibit proofs of its utility, and as you are familiar with the old and new processes of washing, sweeping, and recommended the introduction of my apparatus into the minting establishments of the United States, I solicit the aid of your testimony in my behalf. A letter addressed to me containing such information as you can give, will doubtless be of service to me, and place me under additional obligations to you. I am aware, that so far, you have not obtained results so



favorable to the Govt. as those obtained at this office and consequently cannot expect you to be so well pleased with <sup>my</sup> Apparatus as you otherwise would be, but I think I discovered the difficulty when I was last at the mill, and explained it to Mr Taylor and the workmen employed in the cellar. By drawing off the <sup>rich</sup> residue from the bottom of the mill, while the apparatus was in motion, and allowing the pail to overflow, and a portion of this rich residue to go into your sweep tubs, the sweep has been enriched by putting back, what had been previously removed. I am satisfied that you will excuse me for mentioning this, otherwise I would not refer to it, and I hope that you have

already seen the advantage, of stopping the mill before taking out the residue. I shall have the pleasure of calling upon you, on my way to Washington, but I wish to be fully prepared before leaving New York, and when I arrive in Washington I shall lay the subject before the Secretary of <sup>the</sup> Treasury. If on examination of my papers he considers me entitled to any compensation, & approves of my course, I shall then make application to Congress, and rely solely upon such testimony as the merits of my invention may entitle me to.

Yours very truly  
Edward N. Kent.

Prof. Jas C. Booth

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P.S. By reference to my pamphlet, you will observe that the overflow from the pails is carried into a small trap box, but I omitted to mention that we do not collect the poor sweep in the same box. By drawing off the water, after the mill has stopped and the residue settled, but very little is carried off by the water, but the little there is, is so much richer than the poor sweep, that I prefer to save it in this way than to let it go into the sweep again.